

## **Rear Admiral Richard R. Behn, NOAA**

### **Director, Marine and Aviation Operations Centers**

RADM Richard R. Behn is the director of NOAA's Marine and Aviation Operations Centers, which are part of NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations. He was nominated for this position by President George W. Bush, confirmed by the Senate, and subsequently promoted from captain to rear admiral, lower half. RADM Behn is an officer in the NOAA Commissioned Corps, one of the nation's seven uniformed services.



As director of the Marine and Aviation Operations Centers, RADM Behn is responsible for the day-to-day operation, management, and maintenance of the agency's fleet of research and survey ships and aircraft worldwide. The two Marine Operations Centers, located in Norfolk, Va., and Seattle, Wash., oversee 15 oceanographic research, fisheries research, and hydrographic survey vessels. The Aircraft Operations Center, located in Tampa, Fla., at MacDill Air Force Base, oversees 14 fixed-wing and rotor aircraft, including the renowned NOAA "hurricane hunter" aircraft.

RADM Behn was appointed into the NOAA Corps in 1978. During his career, he has accumulated approximately seven years of sea duty and more than five years of mobile shore duty. He has served aboard three oceanographic research ships, sailing the waters from the Arctic to the Antarctic, in both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. His last sea tour was aboard NOAA Ship *McArthur*, first as executive officer and then as commanding officer (1995-1997).

RADM Behn's shore tours have included a variety of administrative and management positions of increasing responsibility, most recently as executive director to NOAA's third-highest ranking official, the deputy under secretary of commerce (1999-2003). RADM Behn helped manage more than 12,500 NOAA employees nationwide and NOAA's \$3.3 billion budget. Other positions have included serving as the executive director of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (now NMAO) (1997-1999), and as the executive officer to NOAA's chief scientist, the fourth highest ranking official in NOAA (1993-1995). Attending the U.S. Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va. (1990), RADM Behn received formal training as a senior staff officer in support of Department of Defense activities. Six months later he was named chief of the NOAA Corps Recruiting Unit (1990-1992), responsible for the NOAA Corps' recruiting efforts nationwide.

RADM Behn chaired the Commerce Department's Combined Federal Campaign in 1998, the world's third largest campaign, raising more than \$2.56 million in contributions. Other activities included serving as acting chairman of NOAA's Incentive Awards Board and Diversity and EEO

Councils. He also led NOAA's nationwide 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary efforts and coordinated President George W. Bush's visit to NOAA's Silver Spring campus in 2002, the first presidential visit to a NOAA facility.

RADM Behn holds a bachelor's degree in physical oceanography from Rutgers University. During his career, he has completed more than 500 hours of training in management and leadership, and was selected to attend the Excellence in Government Fellows Program in 1998/1999 as well as the Federal Executive Institute's Leadership for a Democratic Society course in 2001. He has been awarded the NOAA Bronze Medal (NOAA's highest award) and numerous NOAA Corps Commendation Medals, NOAA Corps Special Achievement Awards, and NOAA Corps Director's ribbons.

RADM Behn is a native of Neptune, N.J. He and his wife, the former Alisa Nadean Benincasa of Stockton, Calif., currently reside in Rockville, Md. They have one daughter, Lauren, who is married to George Lukas of Olney, Md.